

CLAIMS

1. A machine for making a non-woven material by aerological means comprised of:

- 5 - a forming and conveying surface for the non-woven material, which is permeable to air,
- a dispersion chamber surmounting the forming and conveying surface,
- means of supplying the dispersion chamber with fibers intended to form the non-woven material,
- means, particularly vacuum means, located under the forming and conveying surface of
- 10 the non-woven material that are capable of producing an air flow inside the dispersion chamber that allows the fibers inside the chamber to disperse and projects them onto the forming and conveying surface,
- characterized by the fact that said vacuum means (6) are capable of producing a vacuum in a zone—called the vacuum zone (9)—of the forming and conveying surface (1) of the
- 15 non-woven material that extends under the dispersion chamber (2) and downstream from it, with a reduction in vacuum speed between the upstream and downstream parts of said zone (9).

2. The machine in Claim 1, characterized by the fact that since the downstream wall (4)

- 20 of the vacuum chamber (2) is a plate, the lower edge (12) of said downstream wall (4) delimits—along with the upper end (1a) of the forming and conveying surface of the non-woven material (1)—a space for passage whose height is greater than the thickness of the non-woven material (13) coming out of the dispersion chamber (2).

- 25 3. The machine in Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the lower edge of the downstream wall is comprised of a rotary cylinder that may be porous.

- 30 4. The machine in one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized by the fact that the vacuum means are comprised of a single vacuum tank in which the vacuum conditions vary from the upstream to the downstream part of the vacuum zone.

5. The machine in one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized by the fact that the vacuum means are comprised of a multi-stage vacuum tank, with each stage having distinct vacuum conditions.

5 6. The machine in Claim 5, characterized by the fact that a first stage (10) developing the highest vacuum speed (V1) is located under the dispersion chamber (2) in the primary section (9c) of the vacuum zone (9) extending up to the distance (d) perpendicular to the lower edge (12) of the downstream wall (4) of the dispersion chamber (2) and by the fact that at least one second stage (14), developing a vacuum 10 speed V2 less than V1 extends downstream from the first stage (10) over a secondary section (9d) of the vacuum zone (9).

15 7. The machine in Claim 6, characterized by the fact that in the secondary section (9d) of the vacuum zone (9), it has only one second stage in which the vacuum speed (V2) decreases gradually, from the upstream to the downstream part of said secondary section (9d).

8. The machine in Claim 6, characterized by the fact that in the secondary section (9d) of the vacuum zone (9), it has a plurality N of successive second stages (14 to 18).

20 9. The machine in Claim 8, characterized by the fact that the vacuum speed (V3) is constant in each of these N second stages.

25 10. The machine in Claim 8, characterized by the fact that the vacuum speed (V4) in each of the N second stages (14 to 18) gradually decreases from the upstream part to the downstream part of said stage.

30 11. The machine in Claim 8, characterized by the fact that the vacuum speed (V5) is constant in some second stages (15, 17) and gradually decreases from upstream to downstream in other second stages (14, 16, 18).